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Near East & South Asia

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

North Korean Scud Shipments; Improved Technologies

92P40141A Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Mar 92 p 1

[Analysis by HA'ARETZ Military Affairs Correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Editorial Report] The Tel Aviv newspaper HA'ARETZ of 9 March 1992 on page 1 carries an analysis in Hebrew by its military affairs correspondent Ze'ev Schiff on the shipment of Scud missiles from North Korea to Iran and Syria. According to Schiff, the most significant aspect of the Scud missile deal with North Korea is not the arrival of the shipment, but the news that North Korea "is about to begin production of a new missile with a range of almost 1,000 km" and that this missile will go on the market shortly. Schiff then indicates that the deal between North Korea and Syria can be considered an "act of war" in terms of international law. In addition, there is no decision from the UN Security Council to prevent the sale of these missiles.

Schiff says the concept of missiles going to Syria can also impact negatively on Damascus' participation in the peace process. He says that Syria is continuing to invest heavily in weapons acquisition, while at the same time, it says it is interested in peace. Schiff then compares Syrian acquisition of missiles, tanks, planes, and electronic equipment with Israel's being a signatory to the Missile Technology Control Regime. He adds that this will cause Israel "great financial harm." Schiff states that what makes the North Korea-Syria deal unique is that it includes the establishment of a "missile production line" by which Syria can manufacture its own surface-to-surface missiles.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Syrian TV on Arab Nonconventional Weapons

92P40128A Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Feb 92
pp 1-2

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', at a conference of nonaligned foreign ministers in Larnaca, said yesterday that the Arabs will not accept American proposals on arms control in the Middle East. In his words, the proposals tilt toward Israel and harm vital security interests for the Arabs. He demanded that Israel first dismantle its nuclear weapons in the framework of each arms control initiative.

In his speech, Faruq al-Shar' attacked Western countries as a whole because of their support for Israel's acquisition of nonconventional weapons of every type while the Arabs are still prevented from arming themselves with weapons of mass destruction. He claimed that the Arabs need weapons for purposes of self-defense. Al-Shar' said it is inconceivable that the West can allow Israel to be

armed with nonconventional weapons while at the same time Israel is settling in the territories and refuses to withdraw from them.

Similarly, Syrian commentators said yesterday that the Arabs will not sit idly by while nuclear weapons are in Israel's hands. Syrian television commentator Yahya al-'Aridi said that "Israel is not the only country which has nonconventional weapons" and that it should be cautious in this regard when carrying out a policy of force toward the Arabs. He pointed out that the borders Israel determined for itself following the Six-Day War, which it considers to be secure, will not be immune to missiles in the hands of the Arabs. If war breaks out in the future, it will be more destructive than all past wars. [passage omitted]

Linking PFLP-Tunis, Territories Activities

92AE0220C Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
31 Jan 92 p B1

[Article by Danny Rubenstein: "A Unifying Illness"]

[Text] Over the weekend, the Palestinians momentarily ceased dealing with the peace process. The hardships of the Israeli occupation were also forgotten. The affair of the medical treatment given in Paris to the leader of the Popular Front, George Habash, was the only issue spoken about in the street in the territories. The Palestinian leadership dealt with it, as well. Suddenly, the differences of opinion and the arguments between the proponents and the opponents of the peace process were erased. Everybody united in a campaign of anger and protest against the French authorities.

Activists from the Fatah participated in the campaign, together with the leftist factions, the Communists, and the Democratic Front. These were joined by traditional leaders and, of course, loyalists of Habash. The members of the delegation of the territories to the negotiations, who were in Israel, signed a petition of protest, along with almost all of the members of the advisory council, as well as the members of the political committees that were recently established in the territories, and activists from unions, womens' organizations, journalists' committees, artists and writers. Everyone. The petition was harsh and caustic, in a style the likes of which has not been heard for a long time. In a press conference in East Jerusalem on Friday, and in other meetings, there were youths who literally broke out in street curses. The AL-NAHAR newspaper wrote that the French policy had sunk to a low of betrayal of humanitarian principles of morality. "What the French did is a type of primitive kidnapping that could have taken place in the deserts of Africa or the jungles of the Amazonas and not in a veteran nation, bearing the flag of freedom and liberty, that should be ashamed of its actions," wrote the newspaper, adding threats that France would be punished for this action.

It was clear that the Fatah leadership was exploiting the episode in order to act toward the formation of national

unity, in light of the rifts created by the peace process. 'Arafat, who is in Tunis, was the one who initiated and organized the provision of medical treatment to Habash in Paris, and he went out of his way to end the affair by getting the leader of the Popular Front out of France. And in the territories, even a person like Ilyas Frayj, whose political views are adamantly opposed to those of the Popular Front, issued a harsh condemnation to the French consulate in Jerusalem.

Just six weeks ago, activists from the Front attacked the mayor of Bethlehem and stoned his car, and now he and others have been given the opportunity to demonstrate national solidarity when the background is humanitarian in nature, ostensibly devoid of any relation to politics. "We view him as a national leader, a symbol of the Palestinian struggle", said the various spokespeople in East Jerusalem, who sought to emphasize that [Habash] is an old and sick man who devoted his life to his people.

In the press office in East Jerusalem, where the activists are associated with the Popular Front, young people mentioned that, over 20 years ago, George Habash stopped committing actions like hijacking, and the split in his organization was due to this. It is true that he continues to espouse armed struggle, but in this he is not much different from other groups in the Fatah itself, they said. A week ago, when the leaders of nine Palestinian organizations organized in Damascus and called to boycott the Moscow conference, Habash refused to join them.

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki from Ramallah, considered to be the central spokesman of the Popular Front in the territories, said that even Habash's greatest opponents respect him. Many of his relatives living in Jerusalem were also brought over the weekend to the activity on his behalf: his cousins—the dentist Alfred Habash from Salah-al-Din Street and the grocer Joseph Habash from the Jaffa Gate and others—all refugees of the Greek Orthodox sect who were deported from Lydda in 1948. For the members of the Popular Front, this was a good opportunity to show that, in spite of the many arrests of activists from their ranks over recent weeks, they are still very powerful. And, indeed, tens of their supporters organized the brunt of the public campaign.

There were those in East Jerusalem who noticed that the Israeli administration did not limit these acts of protest. The censorship enabled publication of harsh items in the Arab press. The police did not interfere when tens of Arabs came to the French consul to submit protests (yesterday, there was not even one policeman near the French consulate, where the Arab protesters came). For many, it was clear that the Israeli Government was, all in all, pleased about the rift between the Palestinians and France—considered the friendliest state in Europe to the PLO.

To the onlooker of the public furor and the excitement that this episode aroused in the territories, this is additional corroboration of the assessment that the tie

between the Palestinians and their leaders in Tunisia is very strong, to the point that the Israeli battle to bring about a breach between them appears entirely futile.

Fatah Leaflet Claims 'Jews Descendants of Monkeys'

TA1402104492 Tel Aviv YEDIO'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat denied his harsh anti-Semitic statements, as recorded this week during his telephone conversation with Ibrahim al-Sus. Still, the influence of his words is already recognizable in anti-Semitic leaflets being disseminated in the territories. In one of these leaflets, the Jews are called "the descendants of monkeys and pigs."

An anti-Semitic expression such as this one, issued a few days ago by Fatah in the Gaza Strip, is a new phenomenon in the Palestinian intifadah. The leaflet states: "Fatah approached the peace process with full awareness of the conspiracies of the enemy. The organization knows well that it is negotiating with the Jews and it knows who the Jews are—descendants of monkeys and pigs."

Yesterday, during a press conference in Geneva, 'Arafat himself charged that part of the CNN recording of his telephone conversation with the PLO representative in Paris is "fabricated," and that the doctored recording was made by the Israeli Mosad.

One of the journalists asked: "Do you deny that it is your voice that was heard in the telephone conversation with Ibrahim al-Sus?"

'Arafat responded: "I said that there is a fabrication here, and I emphasize that only unethical people are capable of bugging a private telephone conversation, and I am not willing to refer to this issue anymore."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim al-Sus declared yesterday in an interview with "Liberation": "Some of my best friends are Jews," and he added: "Europe now accuses us of anti-Semitism? On which continent were 6 million Jews murdered?"

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Rabin on Autonomy Plan, Arab Sector Improvement

92P40135A Nazareth AL-SINNARAH in Arabic 21 Feb 92 pp 1, 31

[Report on telephone interview of Yitzhaq Rabin, Labor Party candidate for prime minister, by Lutfi Mash'ur, editor, on 20 February; place not given]

[Text] "My goal is to change Israeli policy toward peace and to give priority to solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, something I see as feasible." This is what

Yitzhaq Rabin, the Labor Party prime ministerial candidate in the Knesset elections, explained yesterday, Thursday, in an exclusive telephone interview with Lutfi Mash'ur, editor of AL-SINNARAH.

Rabin added: "If I am elected to lead the government, I am sure that within six to nine months I will reach an agreement with the Palestinians on autonomy as a transitional solution that will last five years. At the end of three years of autonomy, we, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and others will enter into negotiations to solve the conflict so each side can freely present its guidance for a lasting solution."

Responding to a question by AL-SINNARAH on whether he thought the Palestinians were amenable to his proposal to enter into negotiations, Rabin said: "I am sure of that."

When asked about what he would offer the Palestinians, Rabin responded: "This is not the time to go into detail."

In the course of his interview with AL-SINNARAH, Rabin said: "In parallel with this, we will work on changing the set of priorities in Israel. The Likud Government is directing resources toward political settlements in the territories, but these resources will be redirected toward solving economic and social problems for all circles in Israel."

Rabin added that what he means is "immigration and providing help to the younger generation in the country, along with fighting unemployment and closing the gap between the Arab and Hebrew sectors regarding education, health, and other things."

At the end of the exclusive interview with AL-SINNARAH, Rabin said: "I appeal to the Israeli Arab citizens to support the Labor Party." When the editor of AL-SINNARAH asked him whether he expected that, Rabin said: "I appeal for and request support for Labor Party policy and I certainly expect it."

On the subject of Christian members representing the Labor Party, a matter which pertains to their integration into the party list, Rabin said that he does not want to go into that subject. He added that he will bring up topics in the area of representation and it will be necessary to find solutions within the framework of the resolutions of the last party central committee.

Lubavitcher Rebbe's Role in Autonomy Issue

92AE0220A Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Jan 92 p 4

[Article by Shachar Ilan: "The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Interference in Politics is Part of a Messianic Process That the [Lubavitcher] Hasidim Are Undergoing"]

[Text] Minister of Transportation Moshe Katzav certainly did not expect such a reprimand during his visit to the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who is known for sympathizing with the government. In

the synagogue of the Lubavitcher Hasidim, in front of who knows how many listeners, the Rebbe scolded and clarified: "I established the Shamir government, and if Shamir continues to talk about autonomy, I will fight the government with all of my might."

Thus, Schneerson's involvement in Israeli politics reached new heights. A year and a half ago, he already caused one government to fall, the Peres government, even prior to its establishment. His order caused two Agudat Israel votes to move to the Likud camp. Afterwards, the Rebbe was quiet for a long time, as if he were happy with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In recent months, he has returned to political involvement. Approximately three months ago, he reacted to a statement by his great opponent, Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Shach, who said that [Israel] should be grateful to the Americans for their aid to Israel during the Gulf War, and should not defy them. Schneerson said that Shach's statement is "the opposite of the Torah, the opposite of the truth, and the opposite of wisdom." He clarified that the Jewish people is an extraordinary nation and, therefore, it need not obey other peoples.

Over a month ago, HA'ARETZ reported about a meeting between the special emissary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Yosef Yitzhaq Hacohen Gutnick, and Shamir. Gutnick clarified to Shamir that the Rebbe adamantly opposes autonomy or any other concession at the conference, and that he rules out talk of autonomy. Now, it turns out that Schneerson did not intend this as a message, but as an order.

Schneerson, said an ultra-Orthodox source yesterday, like people from the Tehiya and Moledet, feels that he has been cheated. "How can it be that Shamir, of all people, is agreeing to discuss plans to hand over parts of the Land of Israel", Schneerson asked Katzav in fury, in the conversation reported last Friday in HA'ARETZ.

Ostensibly, the significance of Schneerson's words is that the three politicians who listen to him, Minister of Religious Affairs Avner Shaki and deputy ministers Avraham Vardiger and Eliezer Mizrahi, must vote for the fall of the government.

Rabbi Menachem Brod from Habad says that even after what the Rebbe said, Shamir again expressed his support for a solution of autonomy. Nonetheless, Brod noted that the three members of the Knesset [MK] are not subordinate to Habad institutions, and their commitment to the Rebbe is personal.

A senior source in Habad said that the Rebbe declared that if the talk of autonomy continues, he will fight against the government. "Ostensibly, the condition has been realized, and we consider Shamir's statements in favor of autonomy to be a dangerous declaration and desecration of the name of God."

At least one MK will apparently obey Schneerson's order: Deputy Minister Mizrahi, who has already

declared in the past that the moment that they discuss real issues at the conference, he will resign from the government.

Mizrachi says that he is awaiting clarifications from Shamir. "If it turns out that he indeed supports autonomy, it is reasonable that I shall vote against the government in the Labor Party's motion of no confidence."

Deputy Minister Vardiger says that he is waiting for guidelines from the United States, but he will not join Labor's motion of no confidence. He is certain that the Rabbi did not intend to establish such a government.

Minister of Religious Affairs Avner Shaki is openly acting against the position of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He supports the autonomy plan, and is calling for the Tehiya and Moledet to remain in the government.

Professor Menachem Friedman from Bar-Ilan University, who researches the ultra-Orthodox population, maintains that Schneerson's strong intervention in Israeli politics in recent months is part of the Messianic process that the Lubavitcher Hasidim are undergoing. "The perception is that the concession of territories will harm the redemption, because all of the land belongs to the Jewish people."

Until the last elections, Habad was involved in politics as a particularly aggressive lobby, but was not identified with a party.

In previous election campaigns, the Lubavitcher Rebbe would not explicitly tell his followers whom to vote for, and they would understand that he means Poalei Agudat Israel.

For years, the Lubavitcher Hasidim waged a battle of principle on the issue of the "Who is a Jew" law. It also fought against the unique appropriations, since they did not receive anything.

In the past, the Lubavitcher Rebbe made do with mere speech against the return of the territories.

The person who forced our master and teacher Schneerson to enter politics was actually his opponent, the Lithuanian leader Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Shach.

Shach left Agudat Israel prior to the elections in 1988, and founded Degel Hatorah. One of its charter principles was the boycotting of Habad. Only the Hasidim and Menachem Porush's faction remained in Agudat Israel.

Habad gave Agudat Israel full support in the elections, with the objective of showing the other Hasidic groups that it was worthwhile to support Habad and in order to show Shach who was the stronger one.

They spared no effort, including oaths and blessings. Agudat Israel received five mandates in the elections, three more than its real power.

Since then, however, relations have cooled. In Habad, they are angry at the fact that Agudat Israel did not do anything with regard to the "who is a Jew" law, and did not transfer funds to the Lubavitcher Hasidim.

According to Professor Friedman, the Lubavitcher Hasidim were also very hurt by the political identification. Secular fights against Habad's activity in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and at Ben Gurion Airport commenced.

The rift between Habad and Agudat Israel climaxed, however, subsequent to the fall of the national unity government. In Habad they cannot understand how Agudat Israel intended to use the mandates that the Lubavitcher Rebbe brought them in order to establish a Labor government.

In Agudat Israel, they will not forgive Schneerson for acting in violation of the decision of the party's Council of Torah Sages to join the Peres government, and for presenting the Council as a forum devoid of content.

Given this background, the chances that the Habad-Agudat Israel partnership will be renewed in the upcoming elections are slight. It is much more reasonable that Agudat Israel and Degel Hatorah will run together. On the other hand, it is possible that those close to Habad will establish a party.

Recently, Deputy Minister Mizrachi has declared several times his intention to run at the head of a list to be called Yishai—"Yachad Shivtei Israel" [Tribes of Israel Together]. He has even been heard saying that his list would bring in three mandates. This estimate appears a bit unrealistic, and there are those who maintain that Mizrachi is flexing his muscles in order to receive a place in the Likud's list.

Another possibility is that the three [politicians] close to Habad will form a joint list: Shaki, Vardiger, and Mizrachi. In order for this to happen, Shaki must leave the Mafdal and Vardiger must recant his decision to retire from politics. This does not sound so reasonable, but it is definitely a much talked about possibility.

Immigration From Commonwealth Continues To Decrease

TA1002163592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
10 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The drop in immigration continues: during the first nine days of February, 1,177 people immigrated to Israel including 975 from the nations of the Commonwealth republics. Minister of Absorption Yitzhaq Peretz said yesterday that "there is no doubt that irresponsible statements made by public figures are broadcasting to potential immigrants, that because of different problems, they will not be able to be absorbed in Israel." Peretz added that he is all for constructive criticism which proposes positive solutions for confronting immigrant absorption, "but I do not support statements which

sow demoralization and go against the truth." He noted that "despite the numbers of decreasing immigration, we should not forget that the Soviet Union is in the midst of a process of disintegration, in which there is danger of violence breaking out, that is liable to bring about a civil war and to endanger the Jewish population.

Jewish Majority in Galilee for First Time

TA1302180392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] For the first time since the establishment of the state, there is a Jewish majority in the Galilee. This was reported yesterday by the deputy director-general of the Jewish Agency Immigration and Absorption Department, Ofir Paz, at a ceremony in Ma'aleh Tarshiha.

Paz said that it has become clear, from immigration and absorption statistical totals in the Galilee, that for the first time, in December 1991, a Jewish majority has been created in the Galilee, in the wake of the immigration waves from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

According to the calculations of the Jewish Agency and the Planning Branch of the Interior Ministry, there are about 412,100 Jews (51 percent) and 408,000 Arabs (49 percent) in the Galilee today.

Analysis of Arab Influx Into Jerusalem

92AE0220D Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 92 p B1

[Article by Meron Benvenisti: "Building on the Slope of Evil"]

[Text] In recent weeks, a deliberate hand saw fit to provide the written and electronic press with a stormy item about an "increase in the scope of illegal construction by Arabs in Jerusalem." According to this item, this is merely the tip of the iceberg: the truly severe development is that "approximately 100,000 residents of Judaea and Samaria have been absorbed into the Jerusalem district and tens of thousands of them have settled illegally within the city."

This is not the first time that warnings have been published regarding the "demographic danger" threatening Jewish Jerusalem. The alarms were sounded each time that the authorities expropriated land, began construction campaigns, or initiated "settlements" in the city and its vicinity. This time, as well, the timing was intentional: immediately following the public furor that was created in the wake of the settlement of Jewish extremists in Silwan.

The authorities would not have warned of danger unless they viewed the Arab construction as a Palestinian national effort intended to control the capital of Israel. The Israelis, who sacrifice every urban and esthetic consideration on the altar of creating physical facts of concrete and asphalt in Jerusalem, perceive the Arab construction as a counter offensive. To them, the space is

merely a battlefield in which Jews and Arabs wrestle. Their weapons are a house and a tree, a streetlight, a road, and a bulldozer. Therefore, a sovereign state—now determining physical facts in Jerusalem and its metropolitan vicinity at the cost of a billion and a half dollars—is alarming the public because of the construction of several hundred apartments at the outskirts of the city.

The phenomenon itself is inevitable, due to the absurd shape of the borders of the city of Jerusalem. These were determined at the time without taking urban considerations into account. The single consideration was: "maximum land and minimum Arabs." Therefore, areas that had belonged to no less than 28 villages in the vicinity of Jerusalem, and land that was within the domain of the Bayt Jala, Bethlehem, and al-Bira municipalities were included in the annexation borders. Those lands were empty and available for expropriation and Jewish construction. Only a few of the villages, like Shu'afat and Attur, which were located near the core of the city, were annexed. In comparison, dense suburbs located on major roads were left outside of the borders; their inclusion in the city domain "would endanger the absolute Jewish majority".

Now, when the residents of the annexed territories are seeking to build on what is left of the land that they still have, in areas of no interest to the Israelis and were therefore defined as "open areas," this is "illegal construction." The scheme of the residents of Bayt Jala is even more dangerous: they, the residents of the West Bank, dare to build "south of the neighborhood of Gilo, within Israel." He who dares to point out that part of Gilo is built upon land that was torn away from Bayt Jala, expropriated without payment of compensation and densely built, will be charged with abetting enemy propaganda, especially if he notes that the number of building violations in Gilo alone is greater than the number of "Arab" building violations.

The report further notes that "1,500 illegal structures were built within the city." It does not note that 40 percent of the entire area annexed in 1967 was expropriated for "public exigencies," i.e., building housing for Jews. The land that remained in the possession of the Arabs was defined as "open land" and "nature preserves," and only a small portion of it was released for construction. When the municipality submitted a plan that facilitated the constructions of several thousand housing units for Arabs (on their land), the Ministry of the Interior cut the plan in half "in order not to violate the demographic balance." The "nature preserves" also remained as such as long as they were under Arab ownership.

At the end of 1979, the planning bodies decided that the area where the "Giv'at Ze'ev" neighborhood now exists would be designated for the "Saf Hamidbar Nature Preserve," where all construction was prohibited. Six months after the decision was reached, the government expropriated the entire area "in order to create Jewish

territorial continuity." The preserve became a dense residential area. Under these conditions, there is almost no chance that an Arab resident who carries Israeli identity cards will find room for his home within the city domain. Therefore, tens of thousands of people left for the nearby periphery and built approximately 20,000 homes.

The authorities are warning of illegal Arab settlement in Jerusalem, but actually refer to the rapid development of the metropolitan area outside of the annexation borders. Over the past two decades, this population (theoretically residing in the West Bank) has doubled, reaching 160,000 people. The development of this Arab suburb is a thorn in the flesh of those who are making an effort to build Jewish satellite settlements in a huge ring—from Giv'at Ze'ev and Bethel in the north, Ma'ale Adumim in the east, and toward Gush 'Etyon in the south.

In this metropolitan domain, which includes the city of Jerusalem and the area within the West Bank, there is almost demographic equality between Jews and Arabs. These statistics cast doubt upon the political value of the settlements. What is the point of expanding Ma'ale Adumim and Efrat and connecting them to Jerusalem if, consequently, this will incorporate an Arab population with the ratio of three Arabs for every Jew? Thus, they threaten that a demographic holocaust will take place in Jerusalem not in order to deport the Arabs from the city alone, but from all of the surrounding area.

But the authors of the report are impotent: they are only capable of "warning" and seeking who is to blame. The person to blame, of course, is Teddy Kollek, the man who dared to demonstrate against the settlement in Silwan. According to the report, he encourages illegal construction by not supervising, not demolishing, and even "connecting water to illegal structures." This incitement was intended to calm those who demonstrated against the acts of plunder under the auspices of discriminatory laws and defective procedures.

It was regretful to see that the incitement was productive, and Kollek hired a private investigations company that spied on Arab families "living in the old city in violation of the law." The detectives discovered 200 such families, and the list of offenders was submitted to the police. It turns out that even the mayor of Jerusalem is not immune, and if he does not dare to contend with the nationalism, what will those who follow him do? The slide down the slope of evil continues without a stop.

Ze'ev Schiff on Addressing Refugee Problem

92AE0220E Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
31 Jan 92 p B1

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff: "Decisions Out of Nervousness"]

[Text] There is no chance of ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without settling the refugee problem. Whoever signs an accord with the Palestinians without

solving the refugee problem will discover that he did not accomplish even half of the job. When hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees continue to sit in their camps along the borders of Israel and in the Arab confrontation states, we are guaranteed that the hostility will continue just as before; their residents will be a center of opposition to the agreement. Therefore, Israel must insist that a solution to the refugee problem be part of the accord.

The question is, who will be the other side to represent the Palestinian refugees. The Palestinian delegation from the territories justly claims that it cannot represent the refugees residing in the various camps in the Arab countries. Haydar Abd-al-Shafi and Faysal Huysayni are not the address for that right now. When the status of the territories is finally decided, it is likely that their status will also change. Currently, the delegation from the territories can represent the refugees residing in their camps in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank, [but] not the residents of the refugee camps in al-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hilwah, or Sabra and Shatilla in Lebanon. It is also inconceivable that the negotiations on this question would be conducted with the representatives of each camp separately.

Israel will probably claim that it is the obligation of each individual Arab state to solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees who found a haven there. Ravaged Lebanon is an example of the slight chance that this demand will be accepted. The Beirut government expects that the refugee camps will be dismantled, and that the Palestinians, who played a very negative role in the civil war in this country, will leave Lebanon. It is clear that in order to solve this complicated problem there is a need for one address, Palestinian, and it matters not how we term it—PLO or something else. Without Palestinian agreement, it is very doubtful whether anyone will be willing to finance the rehabilitation of the refugees. Nobody will want to waste a fortune without being certain that those being rehabilitated will readily accept the plan. The solution will not be found by discussing the refugee problem without the Palestinians. The problem is ours, as well, and it is not enough to preach that the Arabs always prevented the resolution of the refugee problem.

In the interim, Israel is more concerned with the question of security in the territories than with the refugee problem. It has been a long time since I have sensed such nervousness among the leadership. Those bothered are [at] the political levels, but they project their nervousness downward, toward the operational levels. The truth is that there is no operational reason for nervousness. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the GSS [General Security Services] make every effort to deal with terrorism and violations of public order. While there is not automatic success in every realm, all in all there are significant operational achievements in this specific context.

The cabinet has already devoted several sessions to a report and discussion of what is happening in the territories. Ostensibly, the discussion on this matter should have been quieter following the resignations of Ministers Ze'evi and Ne'eman. They have been replaced in their stinging remarks toward the IDF by the minister of housing, Ari'el Sharon. When OC Central Command, Dani Yatom, reported the number of wanted persons that had been apprehended during a particular period, Sharon asked to know precisely how many of them had been killed at the time they were caught. Major General Yatom responded: 120 were apprehended and five of them were killed. Sharon reacted sarcastically: the ratio should have been opposite.

The reasons for the nervousness at the political level are the pressures exerted by the settlers and the upcoming internal contest in the Likud. There have been indications of these factors in several decisions made recently. There is no doubt that the decision to deport the 12 was influenced by this. The motivation for the decision was frustration due to the failure to date to catch the attackers of vehicles on the roads, who have killed four Jewish residents of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in recent weeks. Although many defense personnel have doubts about the benefit of deportation, the decision to continue the deportation procedures remains in effect. The intent is to show the initiators of the gunfire and the Palestinians that Israel will not reconcile with what is happening, even if it is condemned repeatedly in the Security Council and even if the United States joins those condemning it.

If not for this nervousness, it is doubtful whether now, in particular, decisions such as the establishment of the Civil Guard in the settlements in the territories would have been made. This matter has been on the agenda for a long time. Due to its great sensitivity, the previous ministers of defense and chiefs of staff postponed their decision. And now in particular, when some of the settlers are provoking the IDF, the request is fulfilled. A compromise was made in that the Civil Guard will only be established in large settlements that have a police station, and it will operate only in their domains. Nevertheless, readiness squads of settlers will be given the opportunity to act outside of the settlements. These will be asked to take part in activity in the event of attacks. These squads will be subordinate to the IDF, like any reserve unit, but the fact is that, in the past, the commanding generals refrained from their assistance, for fear of trouble.

On the one hand, there are those in the IDF who claim that the attacks and the violations of the public order in the territories have decreased. On the other hand, it is now, in particular, that the residents of the settlements are going to be recruited into helping the IDF. Whoever thinks that by this the settlers will unload some of their fury at the government's willingness to negotiate autonomy with the Palestinians is quite mistaken: the more that the negotiations progress, the more their fury will intensify, and whoever is sitting on the seat of the

minister of defense will be the object of their attacks. The problem of the settlers is not only defensive. First of all, it is political, and on this matter they are not ready for compromise, even if one of them is appointed OC Central Command.

Council Seeks Change in Western Wall Tunnels

92P40134A Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] Some 24 of the 31 members of the Jerusalem City Council have signed a letter intended for the head of the Western Wall administration, David Eliav. In it they request that the sealed opening at the end of the Hasmonean Tunnel, deep in the earth, be opened, so that groups of visitors in the Western Wall tunnels can complete their tour aboveground in the Muslim Quarter area.

The General Security Services and the police oppose the breaching of the sealed opening, fearing that this would stir up Muslim ferment and religious clashes between the Jews and Arabs. Mayor Teddy Kollek also opposes the opening, though many members of his faction signed the letter.

Five years ago, when the Ministry of Religious Affairs tried to breach the sealed opening, which was found in place from the days of the Jordanians, a protest broke out. The muezzin called to Muslim believers to come to that location and to defend al-Aqsa Mosque from the Jews. The Muslims claim, since that time, that breaching the sealed opening and bringing a large Jewish group out into the middle of the Muslim Quarter would represent a change in the characteristics of the region. The Ministry of Religious Affairs claims, in contrast to this, that the goal is strictly tourism.

Since the clashes between Jews and Arabs against this background in 1987, the topic has come up for discussion in various security forums, but it was decided to leave the situation as it is. Recently, elements in the prime minister's office declared that if a change in the status of Jerusalem is applied, the Ministry of Religious Affairs—which is in charge of the Western Wall tunnel—will be allowed to breach the controversial blocked opening in the next two months.

Following this, Shmu'el Meier, a National Religious Party member of the Jerusalem City Council, started getting council members to sign the letter. Those who have signed so far are: deputy city mayor from RATZ-Shinuy, Arnan Yequiti'eli (claiming he was unaware of the sensitivity of the issue); 'Amos Mar-Hayim, acting mayor; Avraham Kehila, deputy mayor; council member and Knesset member 'Imanu'el Zisman; Daliya Itziq, deputy mayor; and Yisra'el Shuldermann and Rolando Eisen.

Confiscation Said Behind Housing Demolition*92AE0220F Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Feb 92 p B3*

[Article by Yosi Torpstein: "The Government Knows What It Is Doing"]

[Text] In a reformed country, the story of "Abu Jamal" would be defined as a mere bureaucratic failure. In the West Bank, his story, like the stories of others in his situation, becomes political in nature, incorporating a situation of government acting coldheartedly toward members of another, hostile people under its rule.

On the night of 1 January 1989, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force arrived at the home of Fathi Ahmad Abu-Jabbar, called "Abu-Jamal," a resident of the village of Aqrabah in the Nabulus area, and arrested his son Kamal. "For purposes of investigation only," the soldiers calmed the worried mother. Some time later, Kamal, along with four of his friends, was sentenced to four and a half years in jail for attacking Israeli vehicles with Molotov cocktails and rocks. He committed these acts within the framework of the shock committees of the Fatah in the village.

On the afternoon of the 25th of the same month, says Abu-Jamal, a military force again arrived at the house without any prior warning. This time, the soldiers blew up the two-story house, leaving behind them only a pile of earth, under which were buried many of the household effects and, according to Abu-Jamal, 9000 dinar in cash and gold jewelry. Despite the pleading of the mother, the soldiers removed only part of its contents. Even the doves and birds that Abu-Jamal had raised were caught in the explosion. On the same day, four additional homes were demolished in Aqrabah, and one home was sealed.

Abu-Jamal's home and the homes of his neighbors are only several of the 15 houses that were demolished, during the month of January 1989 alone, throughout the West Bank, in accordance with Article 119 of the Defense Regulations (Emergency) of 1945. In accordance with these regulations, the decree that was issued, in the case of Abu-Jamal, ordered not only the demolition of the house, but also its confiscation for the IDF. And, in the language of the order, which was signed by Colonel Ya'akov 'Amar, the military commander of the Judea and Samaria region: "Whereas I am convinced that the occupants of the structure...committed a violation of the provisions of these regulations, involving violence or intimidation, and whereas military needs thus require, I hereby order the confiscation for the IDF of the structure and the rights of the owner of the structure to the land connected to the structure, and the demolition of the aforesaid structure."

Several months later, in June 1989, the High Court of Justice ruled that a warning of at least 48 hours must be given prior to demolishing a home. The home of Abu-Jamal, who works transporting passengers in his car for payment, was demolished prior to the High Court of

Justice ruling. Therefore, he only found out about the demolition upon returning from his business in Nabulus in the afternoon. "We stood outside," he tells, "Me, my wife, and our five children, with our things, at a loss." He was not even given a copy of the order during the demolition, says Abu-Jamal. This was a deviation from IDF procedures and even from the mandatory legal system [reference to the British mandate of Palestine], which allows confiscating a house and land from people who did not commit any offense without a trial and without any time limitations.

In this situation, the residents of the village came to the aid of the family, inspired by the committees managing the place instead of the paralyzed village council. The Hilu family leased Abu-Jamal an abandoned structure near the ruins of the house, for 40 dinar per month. A few residents assisted in the installation of windows and doors in the structure, [and] others [helped] to connect electricity and water. The Red Cross later sent over a small tent and sacks of flour and rice.

Some time later, however, the landlords began to pressure Abu-Jamal to vacate the house that they had leased him, and he decided to submit a request for a license to build on his only parcel of land, which had been confiscated. He said that he had seen that in the village of Beta [the authorities] had allowed the construction of new homes in the place of those which had been demolished in similar circumstances. "I thought that I had to try and ask," he said, "although I did not have much hope. In any event, I did not have another place to build my home." Surprisingly, after various offices of the Civil Administration—Property Tax, the officer in charge of the antiquities division, Building Supervision—signed the request, Abu-Jamal received a proper building license on 21 February 1991.

The family gathered what remained of their savings, and started to build. At the cost of 25,000 NIS [New Israeli shekels], they built two rooms, without a bathroom or kitchen. But before they managed to add what was missing, Abu-Jamal, nine months after he received the license, was given a new demolition order. He appeared before the building supervision subcommittee in Beit El, where Kishek kohen, in charge of the supervisory unit, accused him of attempting to mislead the authorities.

He asked, "Why do you not show that there are ruins on the map?" "I submitted a request, and I received a permit," Abu-Jamal responded. And to that Kishek said: "You received a license for 189 square meters, and you did not build in the place that you received...deviation from the lines of the building...for this, we will give you a demolition order." Kishek explained to him that in order to build on a confiscated parcel, a request for forgiveness must be sent to the military commander of the region. The office of the legal advisor for Judea and Samaria also noted in a letter of response to the organization "Betselem," which sought to find out about the case, that the structure was built in violation of the terms of the license, and that this planning was sufficient

reason to demolish it. More importantly, however, notes the office, "Mr. Ahmad decided, for reasons of his own, to ignore the confiscation order; accordingly, he bears full responsibility for all of the consequences deriving thereof."

Comparison between the terms of the license that was granted to Abu-Jamal and the structure that he built, however, is not indicative of any visible building deviation. Regarding the claim that he tried to deceive the authorities by not mentioning that the entire parcel had been confiscated by them, does this mean that the administration need not know where it has demolished houses, and that the obligation of knowledge and notification of this is incumbent upon the residents?

It seems that the administration is acting this way in other, similar cases. Approximately one year ago in the village of Janya, for example, the IDF demolished a home where one of the family members who resided there had later been tried for security offenses. The Civil Administration later gave the owners a valid building permit. After the construction had commenced, the demolition order came from the administration. The owners were also charged with deviating from the terms of the license and attempting to deceive the authorities by not reporting the confiscation of the parcel by the IDF. With the intervention of the "Betselem" organization and "Shomre Mishpat—Rabbis for Human Rights," it became evident that there had not been any planning deviation from the terms of the license. Only the fact that the owner had not notified the authorities that they, themselves, had demolished his previous home remained.

Another case that illustrates the absurdity of the functioning of the Israeli government in the territories and its relations with the Arab residents pertains to a 660 square meter parcel of land in al-Rafidiyah, Nabulus. Ibrahim Salkan, from the Balatah refugee camp, purchased it in 1989 for 22 thousand dinar (approximately 70,000 NIS). He submitted a request for a building license, and it was approved in 1990 by the tax, treasury, and antiquities departments of the Civil Administration and by the Nabulus municipality, where the parcel was located. Salkan built on the site a large, three story stone house, but before he was able to install windows, he, too, was surprised by an order that the work be stopped and the house demolished. He began to run around among the offices in order to clarify the matter, and found out that in 1985, the house that had stood on that parcel, which had been owned by the Abu-Sa'ud family from Nabulus, had been demolished for security reasons.

After the demolition of the house, the family divided the large parcel to which the demolition order had applied into four smaller parcels, selling each of them to different people. One of them, the parcel that Salkan had purchased, had been sold four times before he took possession of it. When he bought the parcel, he was not told in any office of the Civil Administration or by the Nabulus municipality that the parcel had been confiscated for the

IDF. Apparently, they simply did not have the information. Salkan was forced to halt the completion of his home and delay his move from the refugee camp to the city of Nabulus. "Mishaps like these occur," admitted the spokeswoman for the Civil Administration, "but there is no system of action here. An examination is supposed to be done on each parcel for which a building license is requested."

Apart from this, explained the spokeswoman, "from the outset, these people were not supposed to submit requests for building permits, as they well know that they are confiscated parcels of land. Thus, they sought to deceive the Civil Administration." In any event, the spokeswoman reported that, due to cases of this type, the legal advisor is apparently about to order that a form of declaration be added to every request for a building license, in which every resident of the territories who requests a building permit will report whether his parcel has been confiscated in the past.

Such a declaration will not, of course, solve the problem of Ibrahim Salkan, and the Civil Administration is not even raising the possibility of rendering the departmental activity more effective and providing comprehensive information to those seeking building licenses. Thus, the question still remains: Are there reporting and updating contacts between the IDF forces executing the demolition by power of the defense regulations and the Civil Administration, which is supposed to supervise all of the civil realms of life of the residents of the territories, including the issue of building?

Abu-Jamal is convinced that the administration is not seeking the welfare of the Palestinians. From his perspective, not only does the administration demonstrate cold-heartedness by demolishing homes, but it is also acting to limit Arab construction in the territories, and is utilizing any reasons, planning or security, toward that end. Other residents also see it this way. From their perspective, the government knows what it is doing, and if it permitted them to build, it must have first checked its files. They are unable to find any other explanation for the lack of consistency—manifested by allowing the filing of building requests on the confiscated parcels and later presenting the new demolition orders—apart from arbitrariness and malice.

Religious Dimension of Settlement Activity

92AE0197A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
24 Jan 91 p 16

[Report from Amman: "Rabbis Are in the Lead and a Jewish Ecclesiastical State Beyond the 'Green Line' Is All But Proclaimed"]

[Text] Successive developments in the occupied Palestinian territories in recent months are making it increasingly obvious that "Jewish settlement" has always been a natural objective rooted in common sensitivities in the

political, social, and moral fibers of Israel, not only as a political entity, but also as a faith and religion in Judaism.

Jewish settlers on the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip did not drive Israel to the forefront of events in recent months. Settlement, denser settlement, terrorism against the Arabs, special guards [for settlers], state-like infrastructure—all this did not happen overnight, nor was it the result of political maneuvers by Yitzhaq Shamir, the head of the government, to obtain more concessions or to squeeze more funds from the United States. Rather, all of it is the outcome of political and psychological factors that propel all the actions of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The objective is not to bolster security and drive the Arabs away from the West Bank—as Israeli disinformation would have us believe—in order to cover the true nature of targeted objectives. Rather, they are prompted by purely “offensive” factors as indicated by settler offenses on “several criminal” occasions, whose real motives the occupation authorities attempted to dismiss as isolated incidents by individual Jewish extremists.

The evidence and indicators are too many to mention, but any one of them would clearly show that developments connected with settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip spring from the political and psychological factors from which all developments spring.

When the so-called “Secret Jewish Organization” against the Arabs and all that they hold sacred was exposed in 1984, the second defendant told investigators: “We are not defending settlement as buildings, villages, and Jewish quarters to be established in Judaea and Samaria. Nor did we do what we did merely to defend Jewish lives. Our belief in what we undertook is aggressively motivated by the need to purify the Mountain of the House (this is what the site of the Haram al-Sharif is called) from the hand of Islam, because we see that goal as a pivotal objective and a milestone on the State of Israel’s road to complete salvation.”

West Bank settler leader Rabbi Gershon Solomon said on the same subject, on another occasion: “What we are undertaking now and in the future should have been promptly adopted by the state during the Six-Day War. The fact that this was not done indicates that the state is not willfully pursuing the salvation objective.” Solomon added: “We believe that the action we undertake in Judaea and Samaria is the only way for Israel to ultimately become the envisaged and promised ‘True Kingdom of Israel’ (i.e. Israel of the Messianic era in its final form). By our present endeavor, we aim to create a course of action and expression through direct coordination by the army and state agencies, and by mobilizing all efforts as part of a complex relationship to attain ultimate goals.”

The panorama of Jewish settlement activity—with all its appendant factors, day-to-day details, prologues, and future results—is clearly governed by what settler rabbis

call “deep conviction” that the “settlement project” in the territories is the beginning of salvation. Commitment to it, according to Jewish Talmudic beliefs, requires not only support and backing for Jewish settlers in the territories by Jews living west of the Green Line, but it also requires actual, direct participation in all patriation activities based on and derived from the wealth of concepts in the world of Judaism and Hebrew doctrines. Based on these conceptual beliefs, Jewish settlers see themselves as the fighting vanguard of the Jewish people, since they seek the establishment of a true Jewish state that pays no heed to secular, non-religious philosophies, as is the case in today’s Israel, which is based on “non-Jewish laws.”

Rabbi Yisra’el Uri’el, a settlement theoretician, wonders whether certain settler activities in the territories violate certain laws in the State of Israel. He clearly states in an article in NEQUDA, a settler magazine, that: “Of course, none of their actions is a violation” since “rebellion against the state is a specific doctrine in Jewish tradition.”

Rabbi Moshe Ben-Maymon [Maimonides] says about relationships with rulers: “The ruler is entitled to execute any rebel against the Kingdom of Israel, but it should be carefully considered whether the government of Israel is, itself, committed to traditional Jewish teachings, insofar as rights in Judaea and Samaria are concerned!”

I believe that Rabbi Yisra’el Uri’el, who supported his viewpoint with several examples saying: “The actions of settlers are in harmony with Jewish tradition, Jewish teachings, and Jewish history, even if their actions sometimes clash with certain secular laws in the State of Israel, in which case these actions are not considered a rebellion against the Kingdom of Israel.”

A group of Jewish rabbis attribute settlements to Jewish religious motives and find a justification in the Torah for every housing unit built and for every Jewish emigrant brought over from the diaspora—so much so that settlement, in many instances, goes beyond the concept of Israeli security and expansionism at the expense of Arab lands.

When the Likud coalition under Menahem Begin assumed power for the first time in 1977, a situation developed in the occupied territories whereby the Israeli military occupation authority did not view itself as responsible for Arab citizens under the Geneva Convention, which emphasizes the responsibility of the “occupying state” for the population and its safety until the conflict is resolved. On the contrary, successive Likud governments have since felt responsible for implementing its ideology of annexing the “territories” to Israel.

Gen. Dani Matt, military governor of the West Bank in the early 1980s, expressed this new Talmudic “spirit” that propel Jews to settle in the occupied territories in an interview published in the 15 Jan 82 issue of NEQUDA magazine. He said: “No persons may reside in the

territories under military rule if they believe that the solution to the conflict lies in the creation of a Palestinian state or if they oppose settlements there. Those appointed as officers or in civilian jobs must declare their views on this issue. Only those who believe in the "path to salvation" may fill those jobs."

Those statements by Gen. Matt were considered, at the time, to echo the secret and silent alliance between Begin and settler leaders, especially since then-chief of staff Refa'el Eytan, defense minister Ari'el Sharon, and Yuval Ne'eman, science minister in the Menahem Begin government, represented government support for the settlers and were responsible for laying the foundation necessary for the future creation of a settler "nation."

The two sides shared a common target—the settlement project and the common Arab enemy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The central expression of that alliance was the creation of expansive defense units, for which settlers are recruited to perform surveillance and intelligence operations in the occupied territories. Such units created at that time were the first of their kind, in that they were not assigned what Israel calls "security chores," as is usually the justification for the creation of such units. Rather, they were charged with bringing to fruition the ideology of land annexation and Arab expulsion, as rooted in Jewish religious texts and edicts that went far beyond the concept of "security," as held by Israeli governments and used by them to justify non-withdrawal from the lands occupied by Israel in its 1967 offensive.

Current developments in the occupied territories—as they relate to settlements, settlers, and the role they claim or were given—are, therefore, the product of purely political developments imposed by such contingencies as the "peace talks", the struggle between Labor and Likud, or other issues of electoral competition between the larger and smaller parties in Israel. The reality of current events is, indeed, deeper and more serious, since it is rooted in a Jewish religious doctrine

that suddenly came to the forefront, even though its inception and formation began a few years earlier.

The early 1980s saw the formulation of racial and settlement doctrines that have newly emerged, even though they are fundamentally rooted in ancient Jewish religious thinking on "Jewish salvation" or the path to salvation that underlies Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria. These doctrines shamelessly consider the Arab-Israeli conflict from a purely religious viewpoint and advocate, with open rudeness, the need to kill Arabs and expel them from the land of Israel, because their presence would undermine Torah prophecies, except that, from the viewpoint of "religious settlement," it is a violation of Judaic laws.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that Jewish clergymen, distinguished rabbis, and religious parties advocate the crimes of killing, expulsion, and settlement against Arab citizens. These advocates run the gamut from Rabbi Gershon Solomon through hundreds of other Jewish rabbis such as Druckmann, Brockelmann, Feldman, and Tzvi Kook, and from the religious parties Moledet and Tzomet to Hatehiya, MAFDAL, Agudat Yisra'el, and Degel Hatora which engage in settlements, and the crime it perpetrates against the Palestinian motherland and citizens, as an uncontrollable, absolute necessity to bring Jewish prophecies to pass.

Jewish thinking at this stage is perhaps summarized by Professor Paul Eidelberg of the religious Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, famous in Israel as one of the foremost Jewish ideological scholars involved in creating an academic future for the new Zionist era.

Eidelberg believes that Israel should wage all-out war against Islam and asserts that such a war is inevitable. He warns Israeli statesmen not be duped by the illusion of peace treaties and believes that the debate over the occupied territories is a waste of time, because the problem is bound to disappear within a very short time when the number of settlers in Judaea and Samaria permits them to send 10 representatives to the Knesset.

Finance Minister on Ways To Fund 'Aliya

92P40138A Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 24 Feb 92

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by "Mabat" correspondents; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Mabat] After hearing the very harsh words by Secretary of State Baker yesterday, are you still pushing settlements over loan guarantees, even if this causes unemployment of 16 percent or more?

[Moda'i] I paid a great deal of attention to Secretary Baker's harsh words. They, of course, speak for themselves. He said this is the policy of the United States, but he knows that the Government of Israel has another policy. Along with this, he said if you want the total amount of \$2 billion per year for five years, you must stop settlements. Digressing from this, there are political conditions. I am against any political condition being linked to monetary aid for the absorption of immigrants from the Soviet Union—refugees from the Soviet Union.

[Mabat] Can you go along with this if the United States says stop the settlements or no loan guarantees?

[Moda'i] If the United States says this, we will respond, but do not think that we will not be concerned if this happens. Despite all this, we will not be left without resources to continue absorbing immigrants, to continue finding employment, and to continue building. We are concerned. We will deal with the affair. We are dealing with the affair. Of course, this is not as easy without American loan guarantees.

[Mabat] Mr. Minister, does this mean there is an emergency economic plan?

[Moda'i] No, we do not have one, for the hundredth time. There will not be taxes imposed on the Israeli citizenry. What we need is foreign currency—not \$10 billion, but \$50 billion. This affair has great significance. No, I do not have a solution for all our problems. Of the \$50 billion, I will collect half of it or more from traditional sources. The other half, or less than half, will be collected from anticipated American tourism to cover that portion. So I proposed that we not lose our heads over this and not treat Secretary of State Baker's idea as the end of the world or the end of immigrant absorption. This is difficult; this is burdensome. This is extortion by the United States. I still estimate that we will receive the loan guarantees or, at least, a portion of them, but with some sort of terms the Government of Israel will be able to keep. [passage omitted on reported U.S. support for Rabin]

New Industrial Sectors in Ari'el, Alfe Menashe

92P40130A Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
5 Feb 92 p 24

[Text] Two new industrial sectors will be established in Samaria. Ron Nahman, Ari'el council leader, will

announce shortly the establishment of this new industrial sector in Ari'el which will spread over 800 dunams of land on the western hill of the settlement—an area intended originally for residences, but which was recently changed to an industrial area. It is expected that the first 120 dunams of this area will be readied shortly and will be prepared and built by the Mivne Ta'asiya company. Likewise, preparations were begun to establish a new industrial sector in Alfe Menashe which covers a 120-dunam area. By the end of 1992, Mivne Ta'asiya will build 40,000 dwellings to be rented out.

Advanced negotiations are being conducted these days with Nehushtan Elevators, which apparently will be the first factory to relocate to the new industrial sector in Ari'el. The factory is located in Tel Aviv. In the Alfe Menashe industrial district, a new factory for producing boating equipment will be set up. It belongs to the F.A.T company and has already been approved by the center for investments.

Ron Nahman told HADASHOT that an industrial sector exists today in Ari'el, a science village, but it does not supply the needs of the populace. Yitzhaq Dani'el, who is employed (in addition to his other duties) in the Samaria industrial districts, said that even before today it was not possible to respond to all the requests to establish factories in Samaria because of the lack of industrial space. In Barqan, the primary industrial district which includes almost 70 factories, there are no more buildings for rent, and the situation is also similar in the other areas.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade opened an office in Ari'el which will be used as a link connecting the various ministry units and the industrial installations in Samaria.

Finance Minister on Nonreceipt of Loan Guarantees

TA1302180492 Jerusalem Mabat in Hebrew
13 Feb 92 p 7

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i; place and date not given]

[Text] [Mabat] Does the nonreceipt of the guarantees from the United States mean that the people of the State of Israel will walk around naked and starving?

[Moda'i] No. I think that this whole approach is fundamentally flawed. The receipt of the guarantees is, without any doubt, assistance that will allow us to create jobs at a much faster pace and of a larger scope, but to say that this is the only, and maybe even the decisive, element is simply incorrect.

[Mabat] Is there room to discuss the possibility that Israel may need emergency assistance like that now being offered to the republics of the former Soviet Union?

[Moda'i] No. I think that this is absurd. If the million immigrants had remained in Russia, they would still need food. Since the moment they arrived in the State of Israel, the State has looked after their vital needs, and it will continue to do so under any conditions, even without the American guarantees which I hope will still come.

[Mabat] Would you define the American guarantees as fateful to the future of the State of Israel?

[Moda'i] No, not at all. They have significance because of our unique situation with immigrant absorption efforts, but fateful for the State of Israel. To say that a guarantee, not a grant or loan, of \$10 billion can determine the fate of the State, or of the Israeli economy, is completely absurd.

[Mabat] What then are the alternative plans, in the event that the guarantees are not granted?

[Moda'i] We have not yet operated any alternative plan, aside from complementary operations like special bonds

campaigns and other such things. But we are certainly aware that we will need to activate alternative plans.

[Mabat] Are you speaking of plans that relate to the domestic economy?

[Moda'i] No, particularly external, because the central problem of immigrant absorption is the pace of growth and this growth depends, primarily, upon resources from abroad and not local resources.

[Mabat] In other words, there will be no significant change in the burden of the local economy?

[Moda'i] No, but, if the external burden is imposed entirely on our shoulders, there will certainly be some influence on the level of services, the rate of their supply and other such things. We have awesome plans regarding infrastructure development and it is possible that, if the foreign resources are absent, we will have to slow the pace. But, I repeat, it seems to me that our panic and tendency to be pessimistic because of one meeting more or less, or because of coordination that did or did not take place, is not uncalled for. The guarantees, in my opinion, will be given in one form or another.

Projected Upgrades in F-15 Eagle

92AE0198D Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew
31 Jan 92 p 10

[Article by 'Or Qashti]

[Text] Within a number of years, if all of the authorizations are obtained, and barring disruptions, the Air Force's first upgraded F-15 [Eagle] aircraft will roll out.

The upgrades will be concentrated in two areas, the aircraft's structure and avionics. The structural upgrades began a number of years ago. Like most aircraft currently in use in the Air Force, the Eagle's original maintenance instructions provide for comprehensive maintenance handling. However, unlike other Air Force aircraft, cracks and leaks developed over the years in different parts of the aircraft. Colonel S, the chief of the Air Force's aircraft maintenance department: "We were not required to remedy these problems immediately, because they did not pose a safety hazard. However, in the long term they would have developed into a serious economic problem. The initiative began in the U.S. Air Force, when a growing number of aircraft began to require massive treatment."

The main treatment of the Eagle in the Israeli Air Force involves reinforcing its wings and upgrading its structure. The Air Force's air maintenance unit is performing the work based on the U.S. experience and Israeli additions. Currently, the F-15 undergoes a comprehensive maintenance inspection once every 10 years. In such an inspection, for example, the wires of the aircraft's systems are arranged and "combed". This procedure was introduced after considerable difficulty was encountered regarding the addition of systems, due to a lack of space for additional wires. The "combing" of the wires permits the installation of new systems.

However, the most significant upgrades (those which directly affect the Eagle's operational capabilities) concern its avionics. These upgrades are still in the planning

stages. The aircraft's existing configuration dates back to late seventies. In the early eighties, the aircraft underwent a series of upgrades, mainly regarding its radar and the display computer. Major D, who is responsible for upgrading the Eagle's avionics: "The present computer's capacity is exhausted. Memory can no longer be added."

A plan to upgrade the Eagle's avionics was first developed a number of years ago. This plan, designated "Eagle-2000," provided for the integration of avionics systems originally developed for the [cancelled] Lavi and the introduction of an MSIP (Multisystem Improvement Program), which is a series of upgrades in some of the aircraft's avionics systems. However, this plan was not implemented, mainly due to its high costs.

The most salient projected avionics changes include the replacement of the Eagle's central computer and armament computer. Additional changes include the introduction of a special data loader that will permit the pilot to input, in advance, flight data on a cassette that feeds the data directly to the aircraft's computer several minutes before takeoff. This system, which saves the pilot considerable time, is installed in the Air Force's F-16 aircraft.

In addition to avionics upgrades, the upgrading of the Eagle's engine performance began three years ago. A digital control system was installed, the existing pumps were replaced with more modern pumps, and the engine's life was upgraded. Col. S.: "We restored the engine's original performance capability, and we expanded the operation casing [ma'atefet tif'ul]."

The plan for the general upgrades has been approved in principle. Now begins the difficult, protracted phase of deciding on the smallest details in the system. Maj. D: "I estimate that it will take a number of years to produce the first prototype of the system after the allocations are obtained. The Eagle will have new capabilities that currently do not exist and will be modified to carry such weapons as the AMRAAM, which is the most advanced air-to-air missile U.S. Air Force."

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